NEWS RELEASE
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

For Release: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 **15-645-DAL**

SOUTHWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Dallas, Texas
Technical information: (972) 850-4800 BLSInfoDallas@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southwest
Media contact: (972) 850-4800

Occupational Employment and Wages in Beaumont-Port Arthur, May 2014

Workers in the Beaumont-Port Arthur Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of $20.79 in May 2014, about 8 percent below the nationwide average of $22.71, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were higher than their respective national averages in 4 of the 22 major occupational groups, including production; architecture and engineering; and installation, maintenance, and repair. Twelve groups had wages that were measurably lower than their respective national averages; included in this grouping were legal and personal care and service.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, Beaumont employment was more highly concentrated in 5 of the 22 occupational groups, including construction and extraction; production; and installation, maintenance, and repair. Conversely, 11 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including business and financial operations; office and administrative support; and computer and mathematical. (See table A and box note at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Beaumont-Port Arthur Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2014

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Beaumont-Port Arthur		United States	Beaumont-Port Arthur		Percent difference[1]
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%		$22.71	$20.79	*	-8
Management	5.0	3.8	*	54.08	48.08	*	-11
Business and financial operations	5.1	2.7	*	34.81	33.70		-3
Computer and mathematical	2.8	0.9	*	40.37	34.41	*	-15
Architecture and engineering	1.8	2.5	*	39.19	45.43	*	16
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.8		33.69	31.92		-5
Community and social service	1.4	0.9	*	21.79	19.51	*	-10
Legal	0.8	0.5	*	48.61	36.28	*	-25
Education, training, and library	6.2	5.6		25.10	19.77	*	-21
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	0.6	*	26.82	20.46	*	-24
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	4.8	*	36.54	32.78	*	-10
Healthcare support	2.9	2.0	*	13.86	13.17		-5
Protective service	2.4	3.1	*	21.14	20.51		-3
Food preparation and serving related	9.1	8.8		10.57	9.14	*	-14
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	2.5	*	12.68	10.83	*	-15
Personal care and service	3.1	NA		12.01	9.13	*	-24
Sales and related	10.5	10.9		18.59	17.12	*	-8
Office and administrative support	16.0	14.0	*	17.08	15.61	*	-9
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1	*	12.09	18.16	*	50

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Beaumont-Port Arthur Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2014 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Beaumont-Port Arthur		United States	Beaumont-Port Arthur		Percent difference[1]
Construction and extraction	3.9	8.8	*	22.40	21.98		-2
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	5.0	*	21.74	23.40	*	8
Production	6.6	10.6	*	17.06	23.78	*	39
Transportation and material moving	6.8	6.7		16.57	16.39		-1

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Beaumont-Port Arthur is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.
Note: * The percent share of employment or mean hourly wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.
NA: estimate is not available.

One occupational group – production – was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Beaumont had 16,710 jobs in production, accounting for 10.6 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the national share of 6.6 percent. The local average hourly wage for this occupational group was $23.78, nearly 40 percent above the national average of $17.06.

With employment of 1,990, the occupation of petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers was among the largest within the production group, as were welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers (1,870) and first-line supervisors of production and operating workers (1,760). Among the higher paying jobs were first-line supervisors of production and operating workers, as well as chemical plant and system operators, with mean hourly wages of $40.93 and $32.55, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were bakers ($9.98) and team assemblers ($13.85). (Detailed occupational data for production workers are presented in table 1; for a complete listing of all occupations see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_13140.htm.)

Location quotients allow us to explore the occupational make-up of a metropolitan area by comparing the composition of jobs in an area relative to the national average. (See table 1.) For example, a location quotient of 2.0 indicates that an occupation accounts for twice the share of employment in the area than it does nationally. In the Beaumont metropolitan area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the production group. For instance, local petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers were employed at 40.9 times the U.S. average, while chemical plant and system operators were employed at 23.2 times the national rate. Both location quotients were among the highest in all metropolitan areas for these particular occupations. On the other hand, laundry and dry-cleaning workers had a location quotient of 0.9 in Beaumont, indicating that this occupation's local and national employment shares were similar.

These statistics are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between BLS and State Workforce Agencies, in this case, the Texas Workforce Commission.

Note

A value that is statistically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with the ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between two values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and heterogeneity of the sample affect the relative error of the data being tested.

Technical Note

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are also surveyed, but their data are not included in the national estimates. OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Forms are mailed to approximately 200,000 sampled establishments in May and November each year. May 2014 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2014, November 2013, May 2013, November 2012, May 2012, and November 2011. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 74.3 percent based on establishments and 70.5 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 57.1 percent of total national employment. (Response rates are slightly lower for these estimates due to the federal shutdown in October 2013.) The sample in the Beaumont-Port Arthur Metropolitan Statistical Area included 1,851 establishments with a response rate of 70 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and 821 detailed occupations for the nation, states, metropolitan statistical areas, metropolitan divisions, and nonmetropolitan areas. In addition, employment and wage estimates for 94 minor groups and 458 broad occupations are available in the national data. OES data by state and metropolitan/nonmetropolitan area are available from www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcst.htm and www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcma.htm, respectively.

The May 2014 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Information about the 2010 SOC is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/soc and information about the 2012 NAICS is available at www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm.

Area definitions

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The **Beaumont-Port Arthur Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange Counties in Texas.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/southwest. Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm. Detailed technical information about the OES survey is available in our Survey Methods and Reliability Statement on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/oes/current/methods_statement.pdf.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Beaumont-Port Arthur Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2014

Occupation[1]	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level[2]	Location quotient[3]	Hourly	Annual[4]
Production occupations	16,710	1.6	$23.78	$49,470
First-line supervisors of production and operating workers	1,760	2.6	40.93	85,140
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers	(5)	(5)	15.09	31,390
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	260	2.9	20.05	41,710
Fiberglass laminators and fabricators	(5)	(5)	13.27	27,610
Team assemblers	670	0.5	13.85	28,820
Assemblers and fabricators, all other	120	0.4	13.02	27,080
Bakers	270	1.3	9.98	20,760
Butchers and meat cutters	100	0.7	14.43	30,010
Food batchmakers	60	0.5	13.16	27,360
Food processing workers, all other	50	0.9	11.17	23,240
Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal & plastic	(5)	(5)	20.65	42,950
Computer numerically controlled machine tool programmers, metal & plastic	30	1.1	21.20	44,100
Forging machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal & plastic	40	1.7	22.13	46,040
Cutting, punching, & press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal & plastic	130	0.6	16.03	33,350
Grinding, lapping, polishing, and buffing machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal & plastic	40	0.5	18.61	38,700
Lathe and turning machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal & plastic	(5)	(5)	14.73	30,650
Machinists	530	1.2	22.88	47,600
Multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal & plastic	140	1.2	18.90	39,310
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	1,870	4.4	21.49	44,700
Welding, soldering, and brazing machine setters, operators, and tenders	260	4.0	21.28	44,260
Heat treating equipment setters, operators, and tenders, metal & plastic	70	2.9	22.73	47,280
Layout workers, metal & plastic	290	19.3	22.32	46,430
Plating and coating machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal & plastic	(5)	(5)	16.65	34,630
Printing press operators	60	0.3	13.68	28,460
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	200	0.9	12.00	24,960
Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials	120	2.1	8.87	18,460
Sewing machine operators	60	0.3	10.11	21,020
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	90	0.9	14.87	30,940
Sawing machine setters, operators, and tenders, wood	90	1.7	11.25	23,400
Woodworking machine setters, operators, and tenders, except sawing	230	2.8	11.40	23,720
Power distributors and dispatchers	40	3.2	42.82	89,070
Water and wastewater treatment plant and system operators	200	1.5	18.31	38,080
Chemical plant and system operators	1,010	23.2	32.55	67,700
Petroleum pump system operators, refinery operators, and gaugers	1,990	40.9	32.36	67,310
Chemical equipment operators and tenders	720	9.6	28.88	60,080
Separating, filtering, clarifying, precipitating, and still machine setters, operators, and tenders	130	2.7	27.57	57,350
Crushing, grinding, and polishing machine setters, operators, and tenders	50	1.4	13.32	27,700
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders	250	1.8	20.32	42,270
Extruding, forming, pressing, & compacting machine setters, operators, & tenders	30	0.4	23.00	47,830

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Beaumont-Port Arthur Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2014 - Continued

Occupation[1]	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level[2]	Location quotient[3]	Hourly	Annual[4]
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	830	1.5	24.26	50,450
Coating, painting, and spraying machine setters, operators, and tenders	680	6.5	17.00	35,370
Painters, transportation equipment	80	1.4	22.22	46,210
Photographic process workers and processing machine operators	[5]	[5]	8.64	17,970
Helpers-production workers	960	2.0	15.31	31,840
Production workers, all other	[5]	[5]	10.58	22,000

(1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Beaumont-Port Arthur MSA, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_13140.htm.
(2) Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.
(3) The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.
(4) Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a 'year-round, full-time' hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly mean wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.
(5) Estimates not released.